CLAIMS

1. A method of generating compiler products in a compressed form, said method comprising:

compressing a portion of compiler information to obtain compressed compiler information; and

producing a compressed compiler product based on at least the compressed compiler related information.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the portion of the compiler information being compressed by said compressing includes symbol names.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said compressing operates to reduce the length of a plurality of the symbol names using a differential encoding scheme.

4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said compressing comprises:

identifying a symbol name within the compiler information that is encoded in an extended format encoding;

determining a differential encoding for the symbol name, the differential encoding having a reduced-size format as compared to the extended format; and

replacing the extended format encoding for the symbol name in the compiler information with the differential encoding.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said compressing further comprises:

determining a symbol name identifier; and

attaching the symbol name identifier to the differential encoding.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the symbol name identifier is a container reference to indicate a container name associated with at least one of the symbol names.

7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the source program is written in a programming language selected from a group consisting of Ada, C++, Fortran, Pascal, and Java.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the compressed compiler related product is an object code file or a source browser information file.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the compressed compiler related product is debugger information.

10. A method of generating symbol names in an uncompressed form, the symbol names being associated with compiler information, said method comprising:

identifying a compressed symbol name being associated with compiler information;

obtaining information relating to the compressed symbol name; and

decompressing the compressed symbol name based on the information relating to the compressed symbol name to obtain a symbol name in an uncompressed form.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein said obtaining of information further comprises obtaining information referenced by a symbol reference that is included in the compressed symbol name, the symbol reference providing a reference to a base symbol that is associated with the symbol name that is represented by the compressed symbol name.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the base symbol is a container of the symbol that is represented by the compressed symbol name.

13. A compilation system suitable for compilation of source programs, said compilation system comprising: an enhanced compiler suitable for generation of enhanced compiler products, wherein the enhanced compiler compiles a source program to produce the enhanced compiler products with a reduced

size in comparison with conventional compiler products produced by conventional compilers; and

at least one enhanced non-compiler component that understands and utilizes the enhanced compiler products.

14. A compiler system as recited in claim 13, wherein reduction of size of the enhanced compiler product is up to 40 percent of sizes of conventional compiler products produced by conventional compilers.

15. A compiler system as recited in claim 13, wherein the enhanced compiler product is a compiler related product selected from a group consisting of an object file, an executable file, debugging information and browser information.

16. A computer readable media including computer program code for generating compiler products in a compressed form, said computer readable media comprising:

computer program code for compressing a portion of compiler information to obtain compressed compiler information; and

computer program code for producing a compressed compiler product based on at least the compressed compiler related information.

17. A computer readable media as recited in claim 16, wherein the compiler information being compressed by said compressing includes symbol names.

18. A computer readable media as recited in claim 16, wherein said computer program code for compressing operates to reduce the length of a plurality of the symbol names using a differential encoding scheme.

19. A computer readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein said compressing comprises:

computer program code for identifying a symbol name within the compiler information that is encoded in an extended format encoding;

computer program code for determining a differential encoding for the symbol name, the differential encoding having a reduced-size format as compared to the extended format; and

computer program code for replacing the extended format encoding for the symbol name in the compiler information with the differential encoding.

20. A computer readable media as recited in claim 16, wherein the enhanced compiler related product is a compiler related product selected from a group consisting of an object file, executable file, debugging information, and browser information.

21. A computer readable media including computer program code generating symbol names in an uncompressed form, the symbol names being associated with compiler information, said computer readable media comprising:

computer program code for identifying a compressed symbol name being associated with compiler information;

computer program code for obtaining information relating to the compressed symbol name; and

computer program code for decompressing the compressed symbol name based on the information relating to the compressed symbol name to obtain a symbol name in an uncompressed form.